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FLOOR DEBATE

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I think, between the quality that is being proposed here and the quality that is the minimal standard is where we ought to be with state buildings. I suppose that for the last hundred years in these locations that whatever equipment that was assigned there has been sitting outside, and then after a length of time, all the way from five to nearly thirty years, I think, in the cases of some equipment, it is sold for whatever the market provides and that's generally, as things go, fairly close to what the original cost was, but that's another issue. And the later model equipment, to a large extent, is in fact bought by counties, by small conservation contractors, by villages, and by the smaller cities in the state of Nebraska. So there is a good reason to keep state equipment, there are many good reasons to keep state roads' equipment in good shape, but I believe that we can do that at a much more reasonable cost than what is being proposed. If this was the first effort, perhaps I wouldn't be quite as insistent, but I did talk about it before and the bids are even more...even larger. And I don't think that construction costs have risen that much over the time. If this is removed this morning, and I hadn't intended to go to a vote on the removal of Section 12 because I believe that...that whether the figures are right, I have no...no way of estimating whether those costs are good or not good, and my assumption is that they are. But I do believe for cold equipment storage that there are options that have not been explored by the Department of Roads. I recall one highly-placed individual telling me several years ago that he was...this was new information, and that had he built those buildings, he could have placed all of the equipment of the Department of Roads under cover in one year with the same amount of money that was being proposed for the six equipment storage buildings that were on the budget two years ago. Now I don't know whether that's accurate or not, but I believe when I'm going to come later on today and propose to reduce the General Fund appropriation for schools in a bill that I have, recognizing that the economy of the United States and the state of Nebraska is somewhat questionable at this time and that discretion is a better part of what we do, perhaps we ought to extend that not only to the Department of Roads to reassess the decisions that are made but also to those other entities of government that are depending upon Cash and/or General Funds to provide the services and build the facilities that are necessary